

THE WHITE-TAILED KITE

IF YOU see a bird that looks like a seagull with a head of an owl, don't shoot it but notify the National Wildlife Federation, 3308 Fourteenth Street, NW., Washington, D.C. You have probably had the rare experience of finding a white-tailed kite. Conservationists are trying to learn just how many of these beautiful

little white birds are left in the United States. At one time they were common in California and not unusual from coastal Texas to Florida and north to Oklahoma and South Carolina. They have been recorded from Michi-



White-Tailed Kite
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gan, Illinois and Massachusetts. Now they are in danger of being completely killed off.

The white-tailed kite is too friendly for its own good. Its pure white head and tail, white under parts, pearl gray back and jet black shoulders make it con-

spicuous wherever it is seen. Black coloration about the eyes gives the owl-like appearance. Often it stands, or remains motionless in mid-air by characteristic slow beating of wings or by riding the air currents like a child's kite. The bird always alights on the topmost branch of a tree where it tilts its tail for balance. These habits make it an easy and unsporting target. Thoughtless boys with guns attracted by this unusual bird are probably the primary cause for its scarcity.

The white-tailed kite is sometimes called the white kite or black-shouldered kite. It is an especial favorite among bird watchers not only because of its rarity, its soft, delicate coloration and exquisite grace in flight, but more because of its happy, confiding personality. Like a human it enjoys companionship, several nesting within a few hundred yards. It is almost always seen in pairs, be it hunting or playing; and it loves to play. If a large hawk or crow comes within range the pair will pursue the hapless bird with seeming delight, taking turns diving at it from a considerable height. When no such target is at hand they will playfully fly at each other in mock battle. They have long slim wings with a 40-inch spread and soar for hours like swallows.

This small 15½-inch hawk seems gay and carefree even in its hunting. It doesn't circle high in the sky watching intently for its prey, nor perch ready to plunge with half-folded wings, nor sail low over the swamps and meadows like a marsh hawk. Instead it flies about in a random sort of way until it spots a mouse, its major food. Then rather leisurely it raises its wings and with legs dangling, drops unhurriedly. Despite its unorthodox method, the white-tailed kite is a highly beneficial mouser.

Only in California between the desert and the sea, from the upper Sacramento Valley south, is the white-tailed kite making a successful stand. Protective legislation is good, says the National Wildlife Federation, but the future of this remarkable little bird is not secure until everyone carrying a gun is helping to save it.

Just About Folks!

Mr. and Mrs. Hans Nelson and son, Neil, and family, drove to Roy, Wash., before Christmas and celebrated with Bud and Jean Elston on their 144-acre ranch. The Elstons are parents of Betty Nelson and were residents of Easy street for several years. Friends will remember those luscious strawberries they used to grow. They send their regards and best wishes for the coming year to old friends.

Edward Grootendorst, who has been attending the Palmer Chiropractic school in Davenport, Ia., was home for the season's vacation.

All of our students going to colleges and universities have returned to their respective institutions of learning.

Mrs. Dora Beaulieu was driven to Coos Bay by her husband last week for a few days' treatment to her eyes.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Turley spent Christmas in Portland with son Calvin and family, returning to Brookings before New Year's, when son Owen and wife of the Bay area came for a visit. They usually bring "Pete," their talking lovebird, who is greeted with much pleasure by all who are acquainted with him.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Larson of Misswa, Minn., are at the home of the Roy Drake family. They visited in Seattle and Gladstone, Ore., before coming to Brookings and are looking for a permanent situation.

AUNT SUE TO BE HONORED ON NINETIETH BIRTHDAY

Members of Chetco Grange are planning an old-fashioned community get-together of the friends of Aunt Sue Benham at the Grange hall this Saturday evening, Jan. 10, at 8:00 p.m., to honor her ninetieth birthday which occurs on Thursday. A cordial invitation is extended to all her friends. It is requested that those attending bring cake or sandwiches for the refreshments, and small contributions for a birthday gift will be accepted at the hall.

JUNIOR CLASS TO PRESENT MINSTREL

The junior class of BHS will present an old-fashioned minstrel show with all the pep and gaiety of by-gone days. They have been working hard for some weeks now and the show seems to be taking shape. There still is room for some other acts, so if anyone (club, etc.) has a good act and would like to be in the show, we'd be happy to have you.

Get your tickets early as there is limited space.

Find what you want through the Pilot Class Ads.

News Notes From Alexander Studio

We are sorry to announce that we are leaving Brookings.

To our customers, we wish to say that we have enjoyed working with you.

To our good friends and boosters in Brookings, we want to express our deep appreciation for your friendship. We have never known a more congenial community. We hope that many of you will keep in touch with us.

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NOTICE BROOKINGS GARBAGE SERVICE

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Serving the area south from the Chetco River Bridge to Smith River, Calif. Garage Dump located 7/10 of a mile up south bank of Chetco River will be open Sunday morning 9 a.m. to 12:00 noon for the convenience of those who wish to haul their own refuse.

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But Do You Really UNDERSTAND the Bible?



Many people maintain that the Bible is so simple and clear that anyone can understand it.

Yet today the Christian world is divided into conflicting opinions as to what the Bible means. Sincere and equally learned Bible scholars take different meanings from the same words, and there are many Christian sects which disagree on basic Bible questions.

The average Christian who wants to understand the Bible, finds all this confusing... wondering which interpretation to accept, whom to believe. The result is that the Bible often gathers dust on the family bookshelf, when it should be bringing joy to the hearts of men.

Catholics, of course, join with Christians everywhere in recognizing the complete Bible as the inspired Word of God. It could not be otherwise, for it was the Catholic Church which assembled the books of the Bible nearly 1600 years ago, and which preserved its precious message on parchment for a thousand years before the invention of the printing press.

It is unfortunate, however, that some of the most devoted Bible readers do not understand it. As a matter of fact, Holy Scripture is seldom correctly understood unless we have certain preliminary knowledge concerning God's revealed truth.

In writing the New Testament, its authors took into account that a knowledge of God's revelation already prevailed. The books they wrote were intended to instruct and confirm teachings already known—not to announce something entirely unknown. When you have this preliminary knowledge, the Bible is neither contradictory nor confusing.



The Bible, properly understood, can exert a tremendous power for good in your personal and family life. But to understand it, you should know something about those who wrote the Bible... the way they thought, spoke and the characteristics of the language they used. By whom was the Bible translated... how can we know these translations are correct? What are the common sense rules to be followed in understanding the Bible? These and other important questions concerning the intelligent use of the Bible are answered in a pamphlet which we will send you free on request. Write TODAY for your free copy. Ask for Pamphlet No. KC-22.

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